

Drug Policy and Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado

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Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

www.rmhidta.org

2016



Drug Policy 101



Healthy and Drug Free Colorado



MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION: THE ISSUES

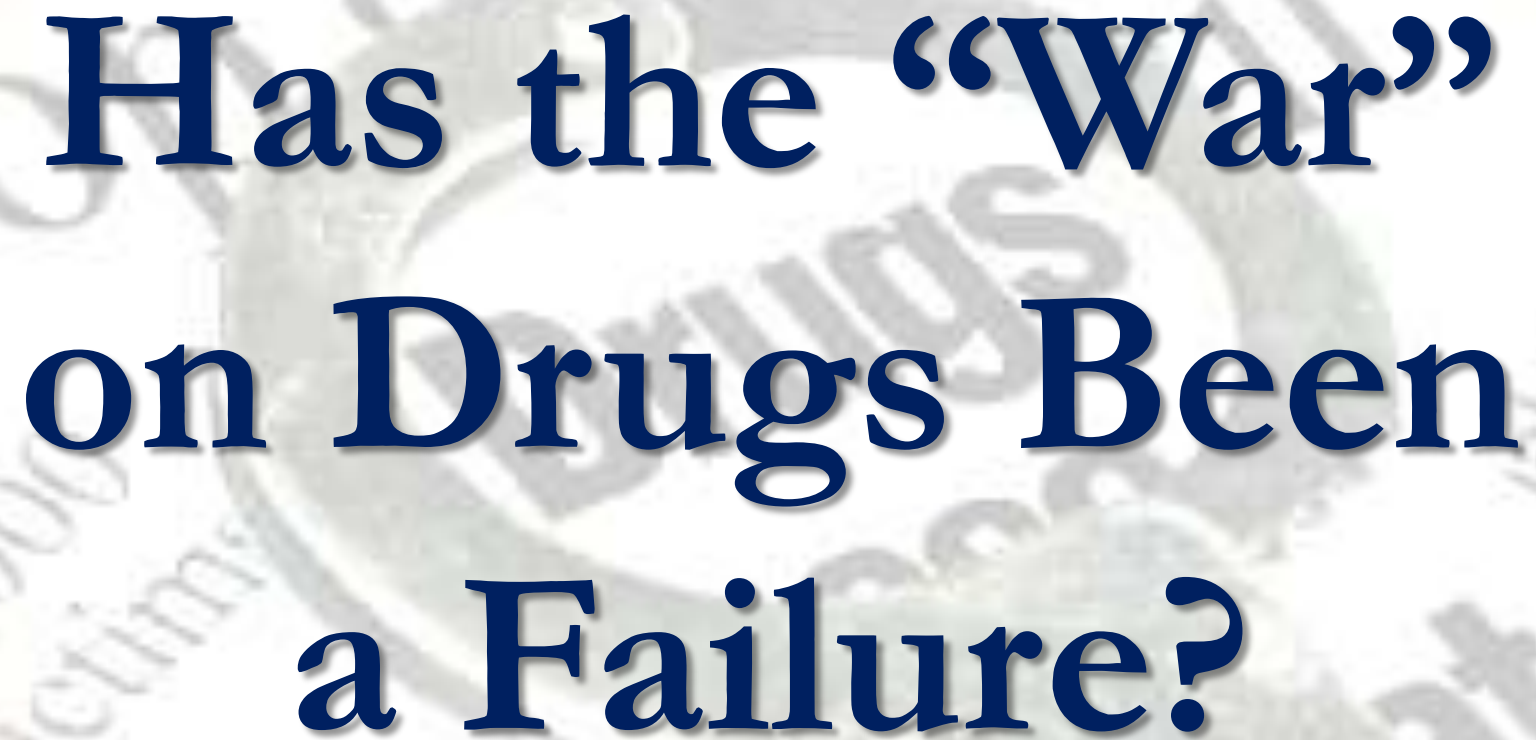
(Everything You Wanted to Know but Didn't Know Who to Ask)

Question and Answer Format

August 2012

www.rmhidta.org

click on
“Reports”



**Has the “War”
on Drugs Been
a Failure?**

Questions

✓ What is the purpose of drug policy?

✓ Isn't drug use a victimless crime?

Answers

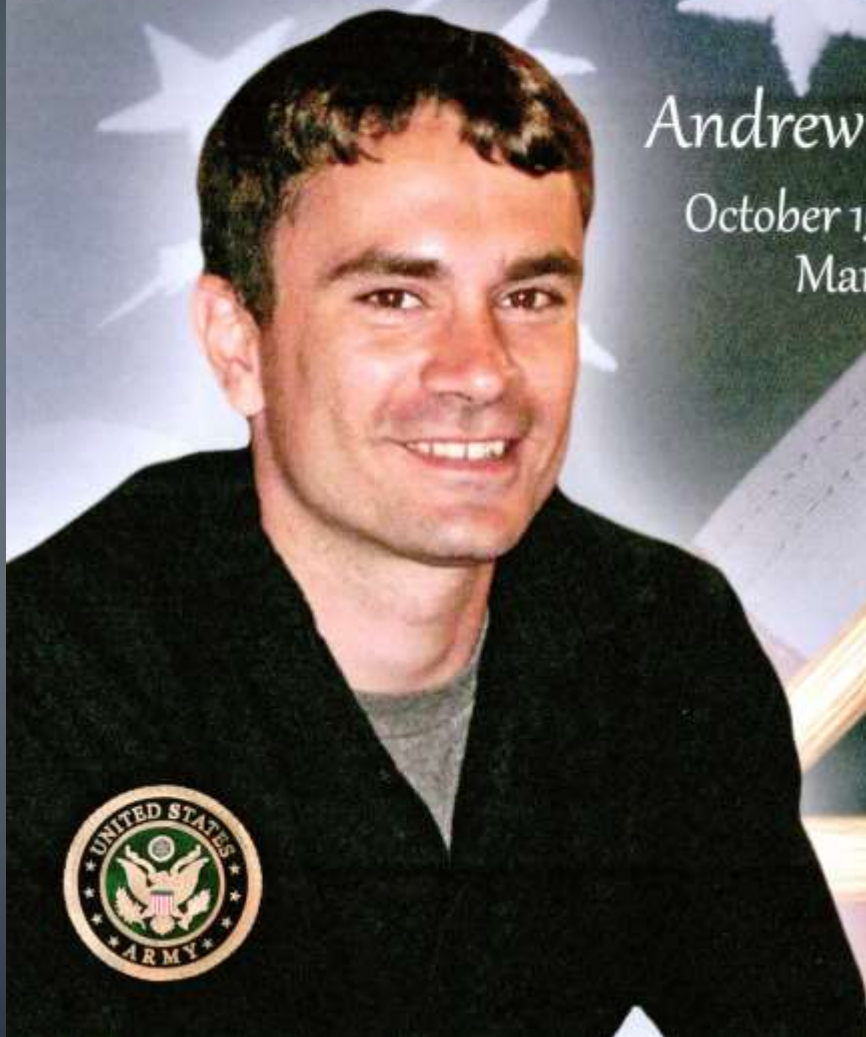
- Purpose of Drug Policy
 - Limit the number of people using drugs
- Victimless Crime?
 - Four classes of victim:
 1. User
 2. Family/Friends
 3. Victim of Crime
 4. Taxpayers



REMEMBERED ALWAYS

Andrew Steven Zorn

October 15th, 1982 -
March 1st, 2014



Question

What are the factors that affect the rate of drug use?



Answer

- Factors Affecting Rate of Drug Use
 - Four primary factors:
 1. Price
 2. Availability
 3. Perception of Risk
 4. Public Attitude

Drug “War” a Failure

Question...

What would it take for you to consider our drug policy successful?

2014 National Survey on Drug Use

- Americans age 12 and older (past month):
 - ✓ 10% used any illegal drug
 - ✓ 25% used tobacco
 - ✓ 52% used alcohol

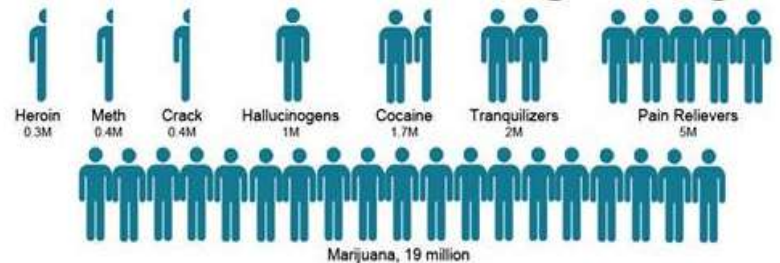
90% of Americans
do NOT use
illegal drugs

Source: 2014 National Survey on Drug Use

Alcohol and Tobacco



Heroin, Meth, Crack,
Hallucinogens,
Cocaine, Tranquilizers,
Pain Relievers and
Marijuana



What's Happening in Colorado?



Licensed Marijuana Businesses

Medical Marijuana (January 2016)

- 516 licensed centers
- 751 marijuana cultivation facilities
- 202 infused products (edibles) businesses

Recreational Marijuana (January 2016)

- 424 licensed marijuana retail stores
- 514 licensed marijuana cultivation facilities
- 168 licenses for infused product (edibles) businesses

Perspective

- Colorado Business Profile, January 2016



| 2016 | Colorado |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Starbucks | 322 |
| McDonalds | 202 |
| Medical Marijuana Centers | 516 |
| Recreational Marijuana Shops | 424 |

April 20,
2014



A New York resident, center, and hundreds of others participate in the 4/20 marijuana rally at Civic Center Park across from the state capitol building in downtown Denver.

Denver: The Mile HIGH City



210 Licensed Medical
Marijuana Centers

108 Pharmacies



GARDEN of the GODS Inc.

DAILY SPECIALS

- MONDAY** Sweet Cut 1.0Z for \$50
(@ 0.2 max)
- TUESDAY** Flower Pre-Rolls \$2 each
Sweet Cut Pre-Rolls \$1 Each
- WEDNESDAY** Earwax Hash \$17.50 a gram
(3 max)
- THURSDAY** Purchases of \$25 or More Receive Free:
10-11am: 15 Joints | 11am-12pm: 10 Joints |
12pm-7pm: 5 Joints
- FRIDAY** Big Blunt Fridays • \$7 Each!
- SATURDAY** Top shelf shake \$75 an oz
- SUPER SUNDAY** 500mg Vape Cartridge \$12

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THE MOUNTAIN FOR ALL YOUR
RECREATIONAL NEEDS!**

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A \$1.00 JOINT**
WITH PURCHASE!

Full-page ads *Westword*

“Legal pot blamed for some of influx of homeless in Denver this summer”

The Denver Post, July 25, 2014

- Haven of Hope: 500% rise over normal in homeless in summer 2014 (50 to 300)
 - “They have an attitude”
- Salvation Army: 33% rise since 2014 compared to 2013
 - “30% relocated for pot”



“Legal pot blamed for some of influx of homeless in Denver this summer”

The Denver Post, July 25, 2014

- **Urban Peak:** 152% increase
 - “Majority of new kids here because of weed.”
- **St. Francis:** 50 more people a day
 - “Marijuana only trails looking for work as reason.”

Marijuana and Public Consumption

“Citations for using pot in public rising”

Denver police say they're not purposely trying to nab users since marijuana was legalized.

The Denver Post
Sunday, December 28, 2014

2012 = 8 citations

2013 = 184 citations

2014 = 770 citations

2015 = 752 citations

Marijuana Edibles



Marijuana Edibles Deaths



Levy Thamba Pongi and
Kristine Kirk
(Denver, CO)



Luke Goodman
(Keystone, CO)

The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact



THE
LEGALIZATION
OF MARIJUANA
IN COLORADO
The Impact

Volume 2/August 2014

Rocky Mountain High Intensity
Drug Trafficking Area



THE
LEGALIZATION
OF MARIJUANA
IN COLORADO
THE IMPACT

Volume 3
September 2015

Rocky Mountain High Intensity
Drug Trafficking Area
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Forecast

Support Marijuana Legalization

- Significant Revenue
- Less DUIs and Fatalities – Safer Drivers
- Little Increase in Use
- Lower Access by Youth
- Lower Alcohol Use

Oppose Marijuana Legalization

- Societal Cost Outweighs Revenue
- More DUIs and Fatalities
- Substantial Increase in Use
- Greater Access and Use by Youth
- Little Impact on Alcohol Use

Forecast

Support Marijuana Legalization

- Safe
- Stop Drug Cartels
- Eliminate Black Market
- Free-Up Police Resources

Oppose Marijuana Legalization

- Harmful and Increased ER Visits
- Little Impact on Drug Cartels
- Become the Black Market
- Increased Policing

Forecast

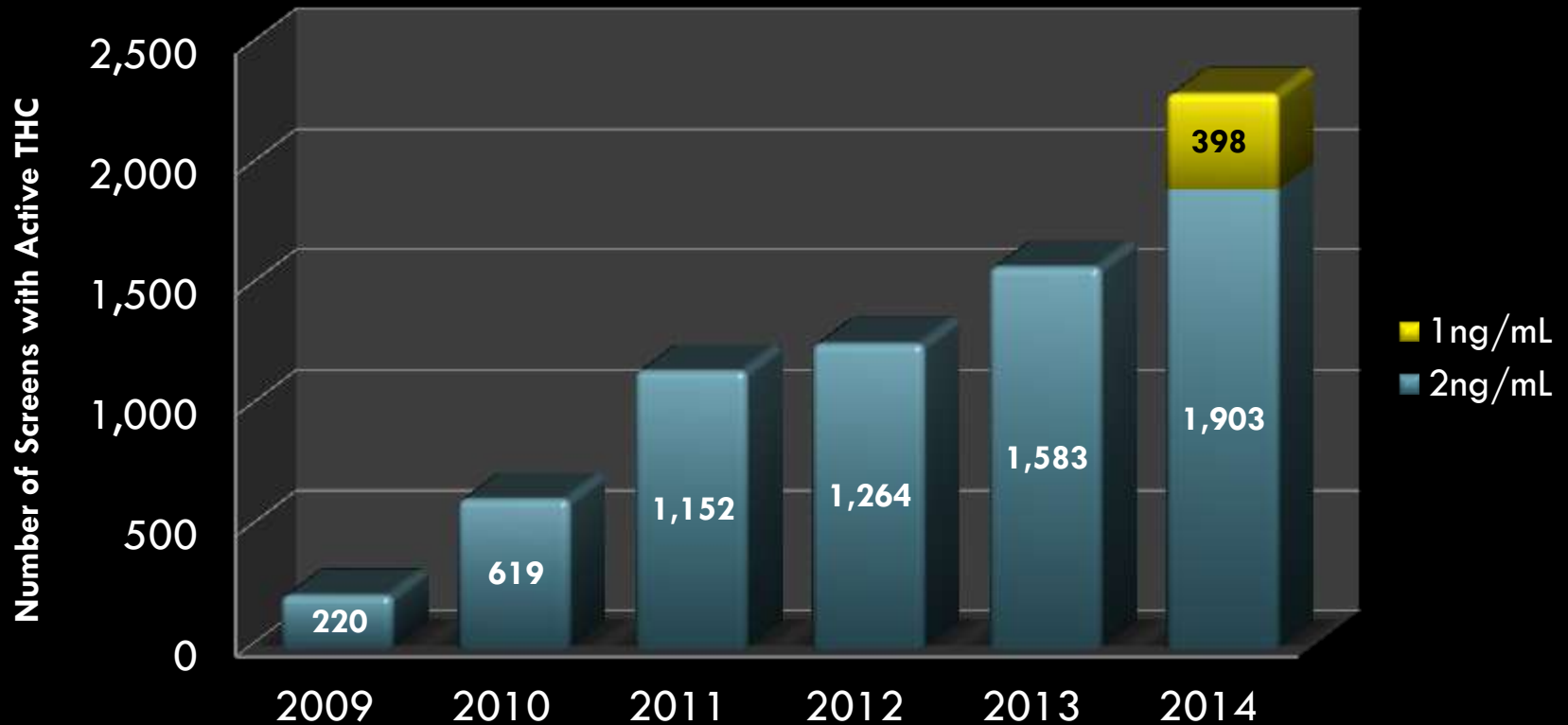
What Does the Data and Trends Show?



Marijuana and Impaired Driving

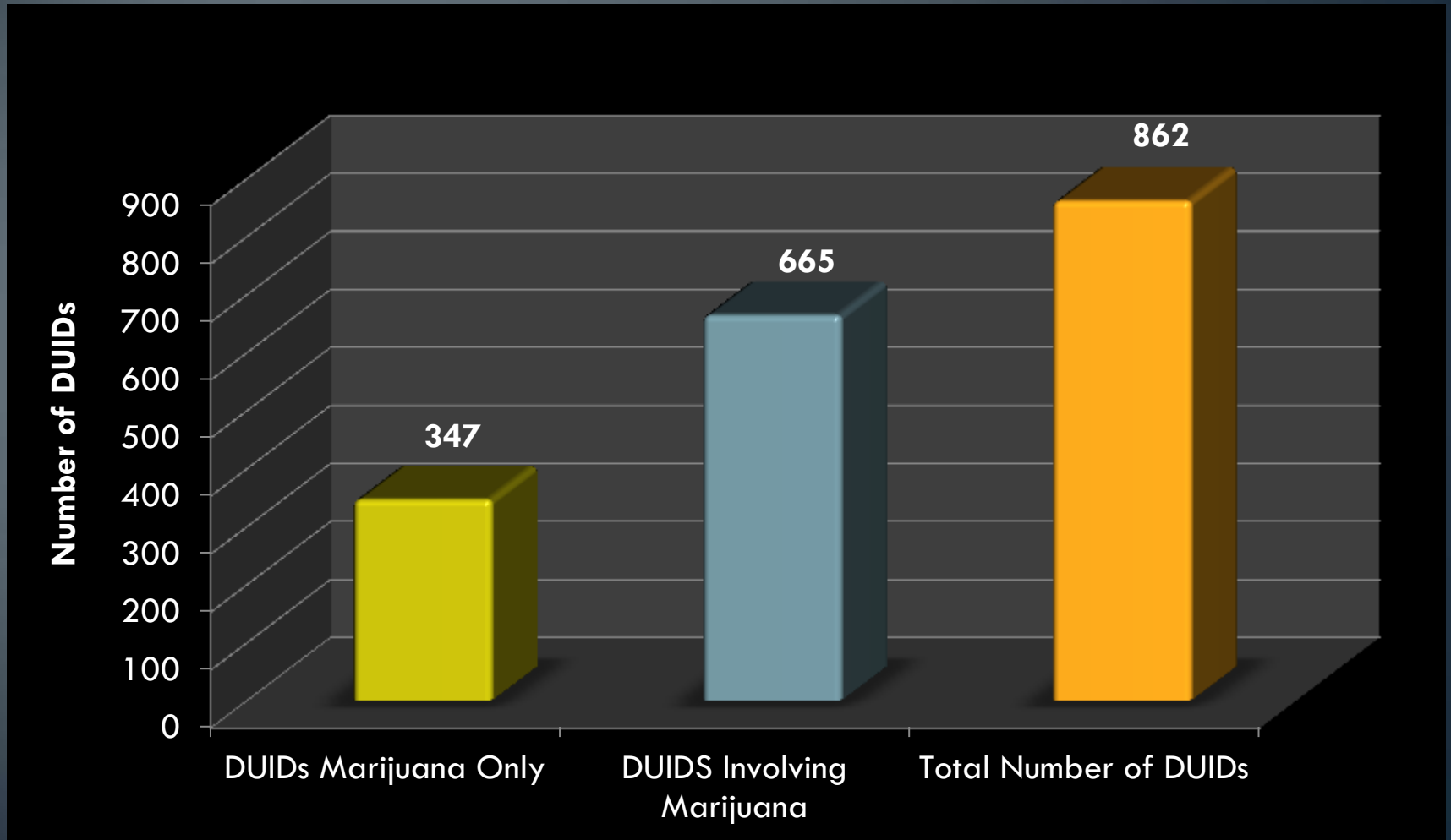


Number of Positive Cannabinoid Screens with Active THC



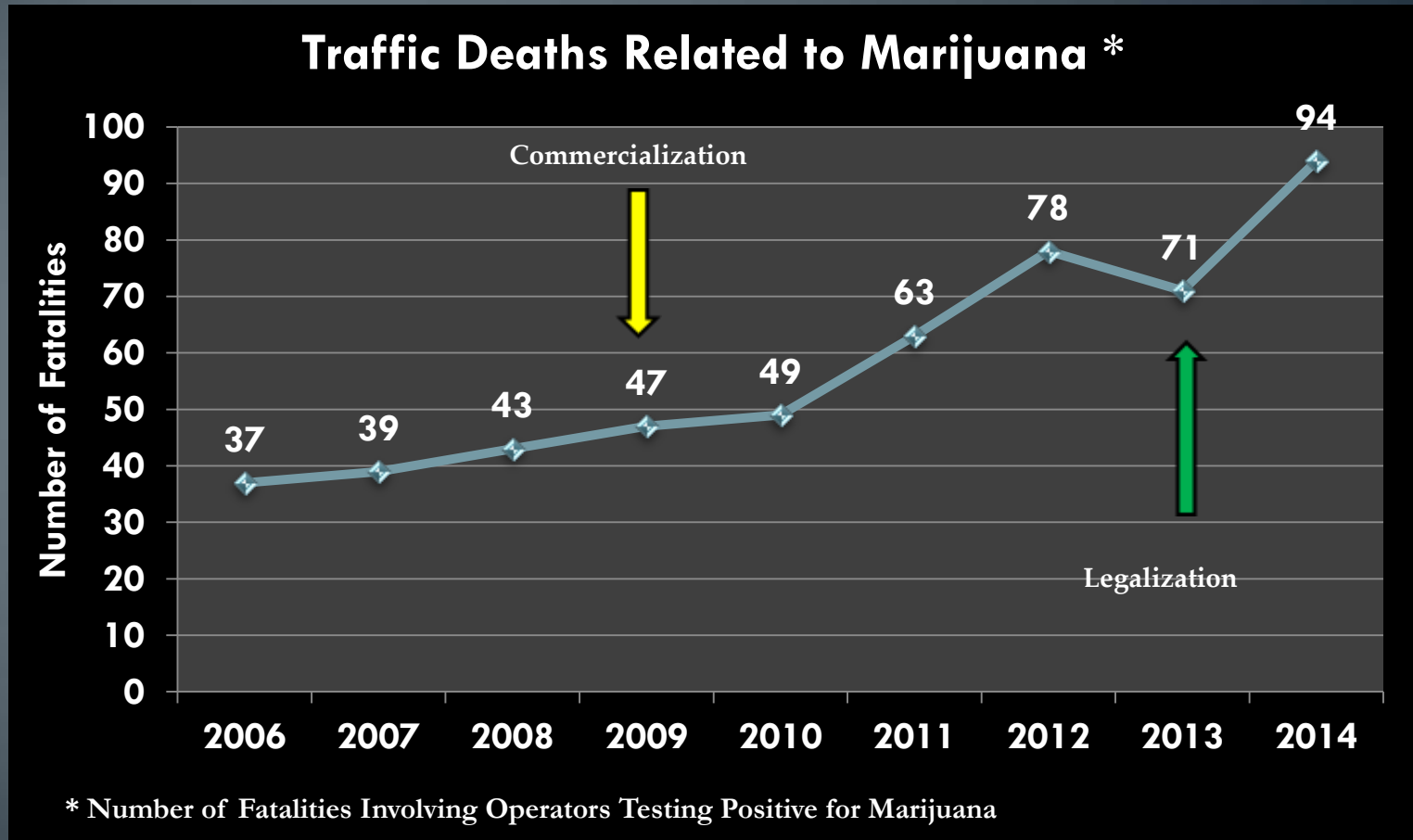
SOURCE: ChemaTox Laboratory and Rocky Mountain HIDTA

Number of DUIDs, 2015



SOURCE: Colorado State Patrol

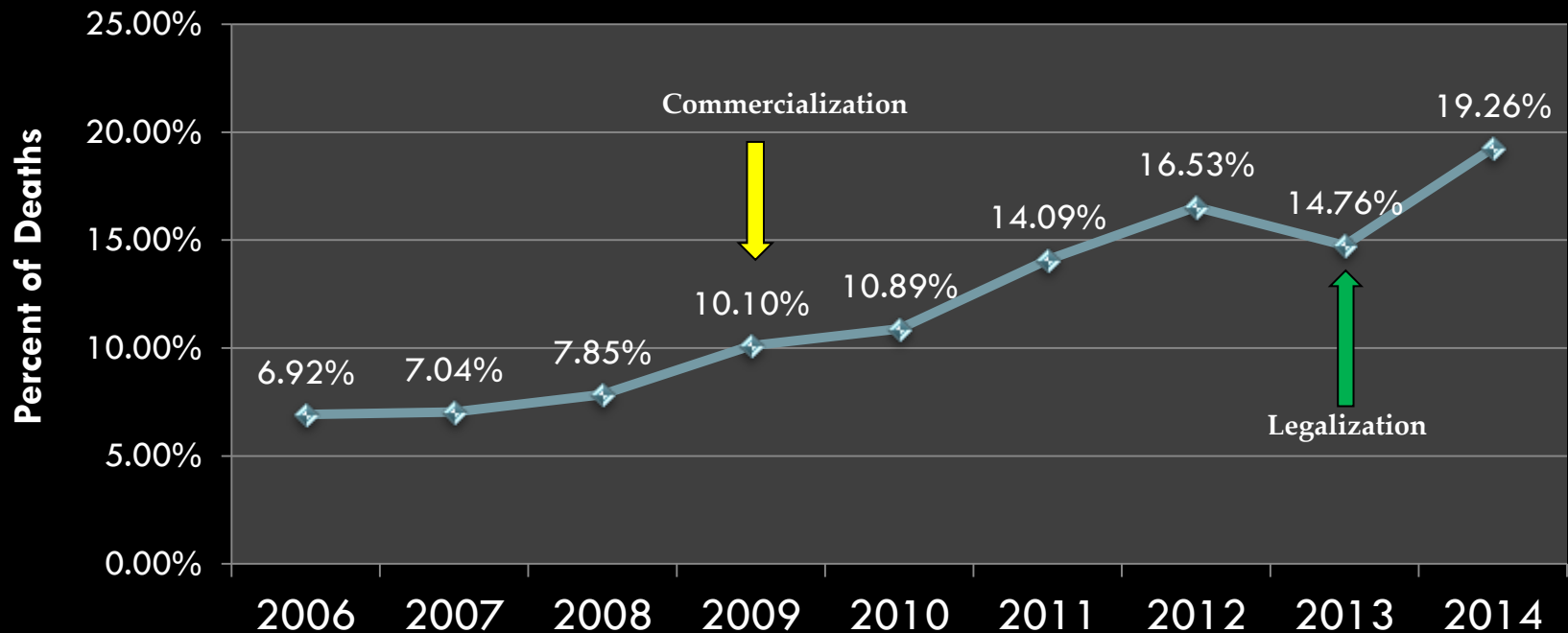
Marijuana and Traffic Fatalities



SOURCE: National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), 2006-2013 and CDOT/RMHIDTA 2014. NOTE: Cannot confirm 100% reporting prior to 2012.

Marijuana and Traffic Fatalities

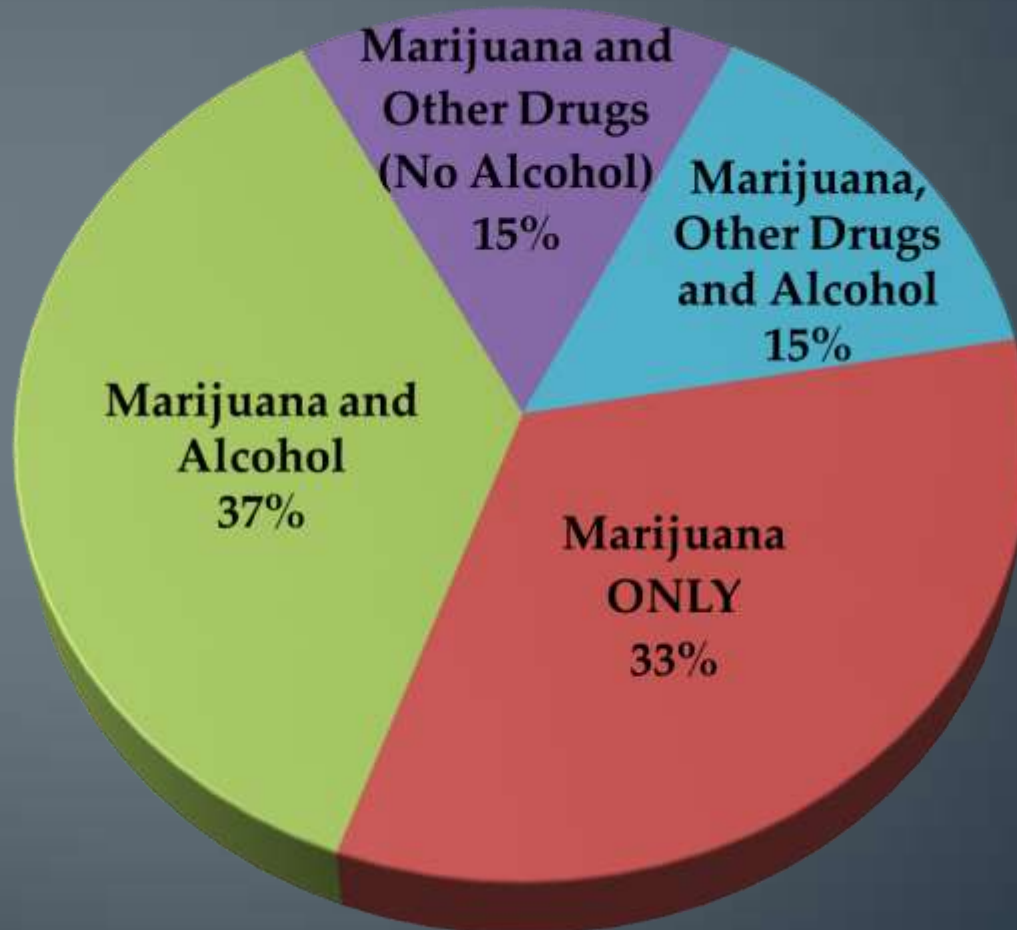
Percent of All Traffic Deaths That Were Marijuana Related*



* Percent of All Fatalities Where the Operators Tested Positive for Marijuana

SOURCE: National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), 2006-2013 and CDOT/RMHIDTA 2014. NOTE: Cannot confirm 100% reporting prior to 2012.

Operators Positive for Marijuana



SOURCE: Colorado Department of Transportation/RMHIDTA 2014

Teens and Marijuana

Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire

THE DENVER POST

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2013 DRIZZLE, CLEARING ▲52° ▼25° »16A • © THE DENVER POST • \$1.50 PRICE MAY VARY OUTSIDE METRO DENVER ★

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Marijuana in Colorado

High times in schools

“Since legalization, reports of pot in middle and high schools soar.” ↔

Since legalization, reports of pot in middle and high schools soar.

By Nancy Lofholm
The Denver Post

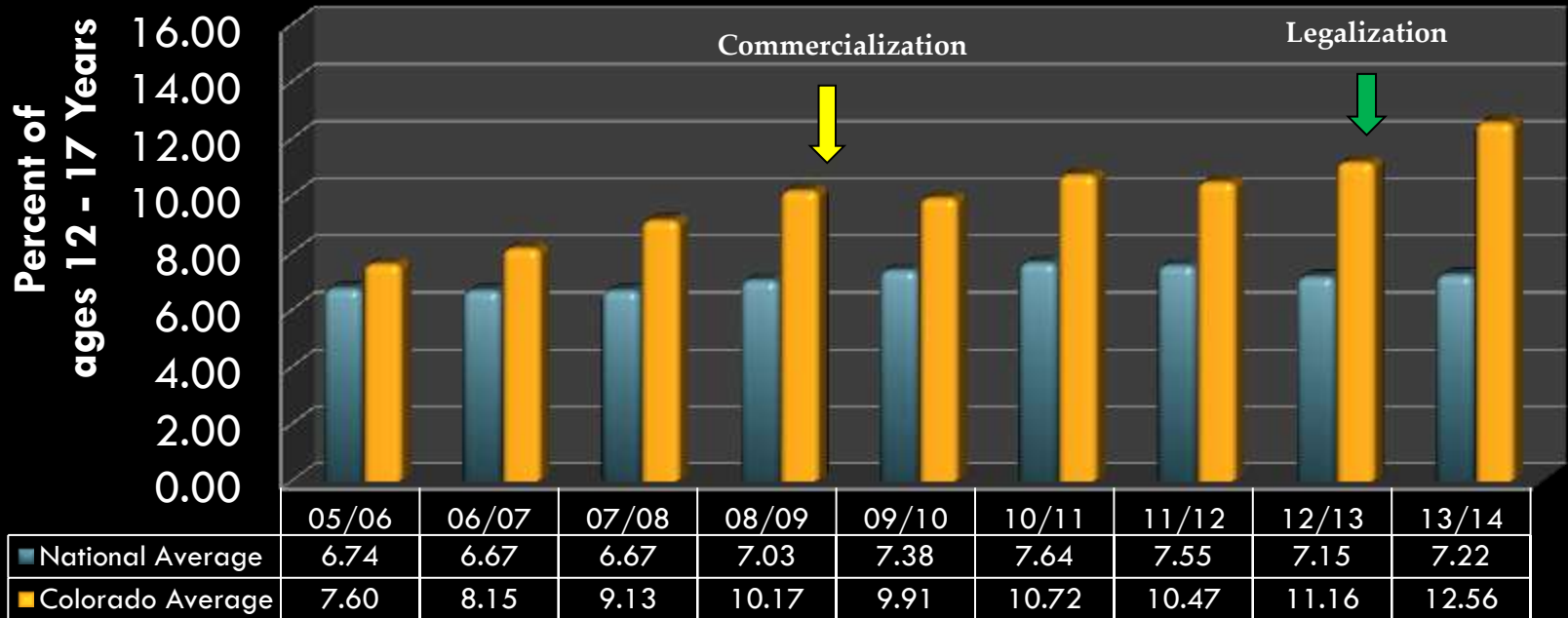
Marijuana Use in Youth

Youth (ages 12 to 17 years) Current Marijuana Use 2013/2014

- Colorado ranked 1st in the nation for current marijuana use among youth
 - ✓ Ranked 3rd in 2012/2013
 - ✓ Ranked 14th in 2006/2007
- Colorado youth use is 74 percent higher than the national average
- 2013/2014 Colorado youth use increased 20 percent compared to pre-legalization years 2011/2012. Nationally a decline of 5 percent.

Marijuana Use in Youth

Youth Ages 12 to 17 Years Old Past Month Marijuana Use National vs. Colorado

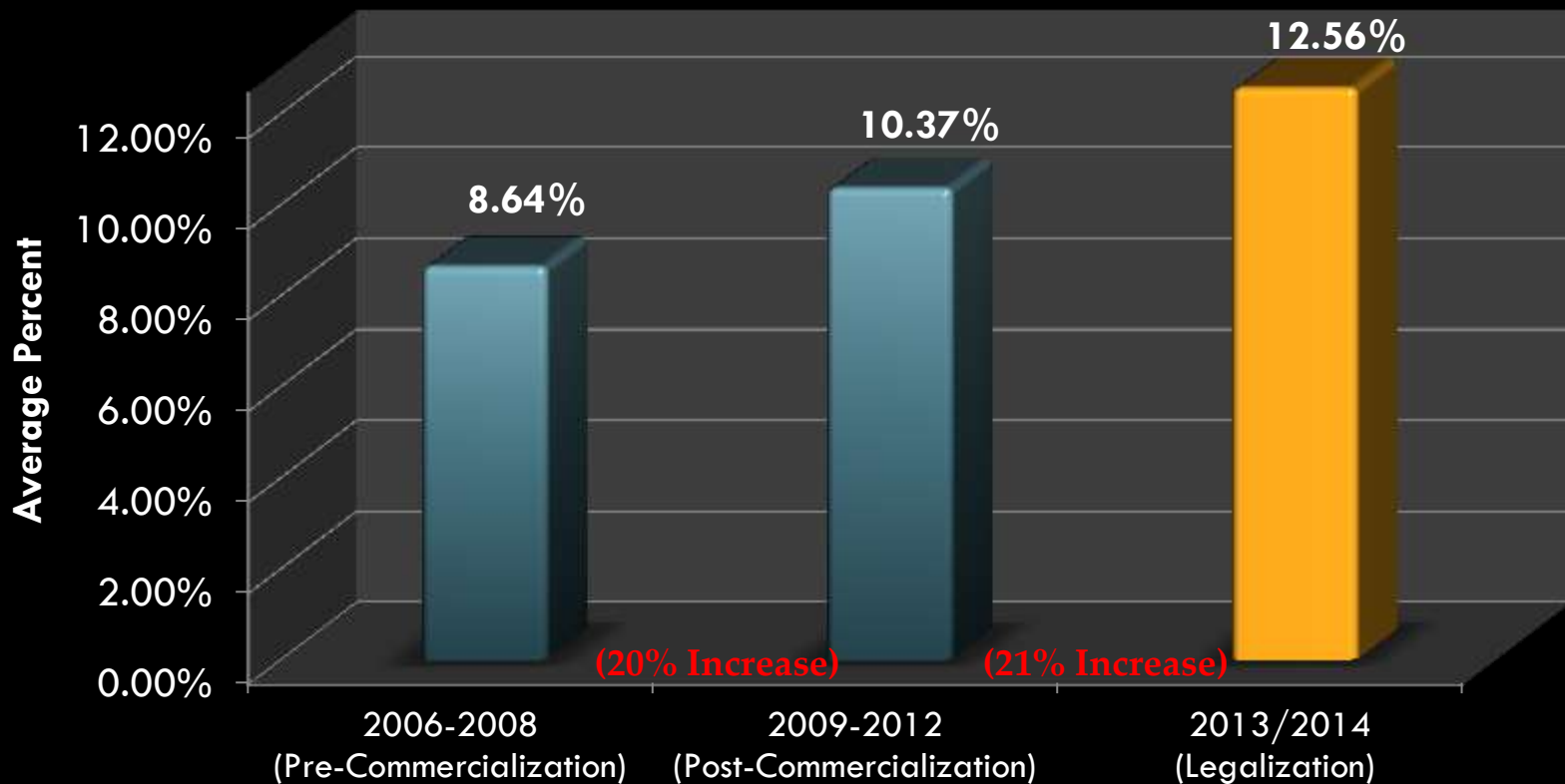


Annual Averages of Data Collection

SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2013 and 2014

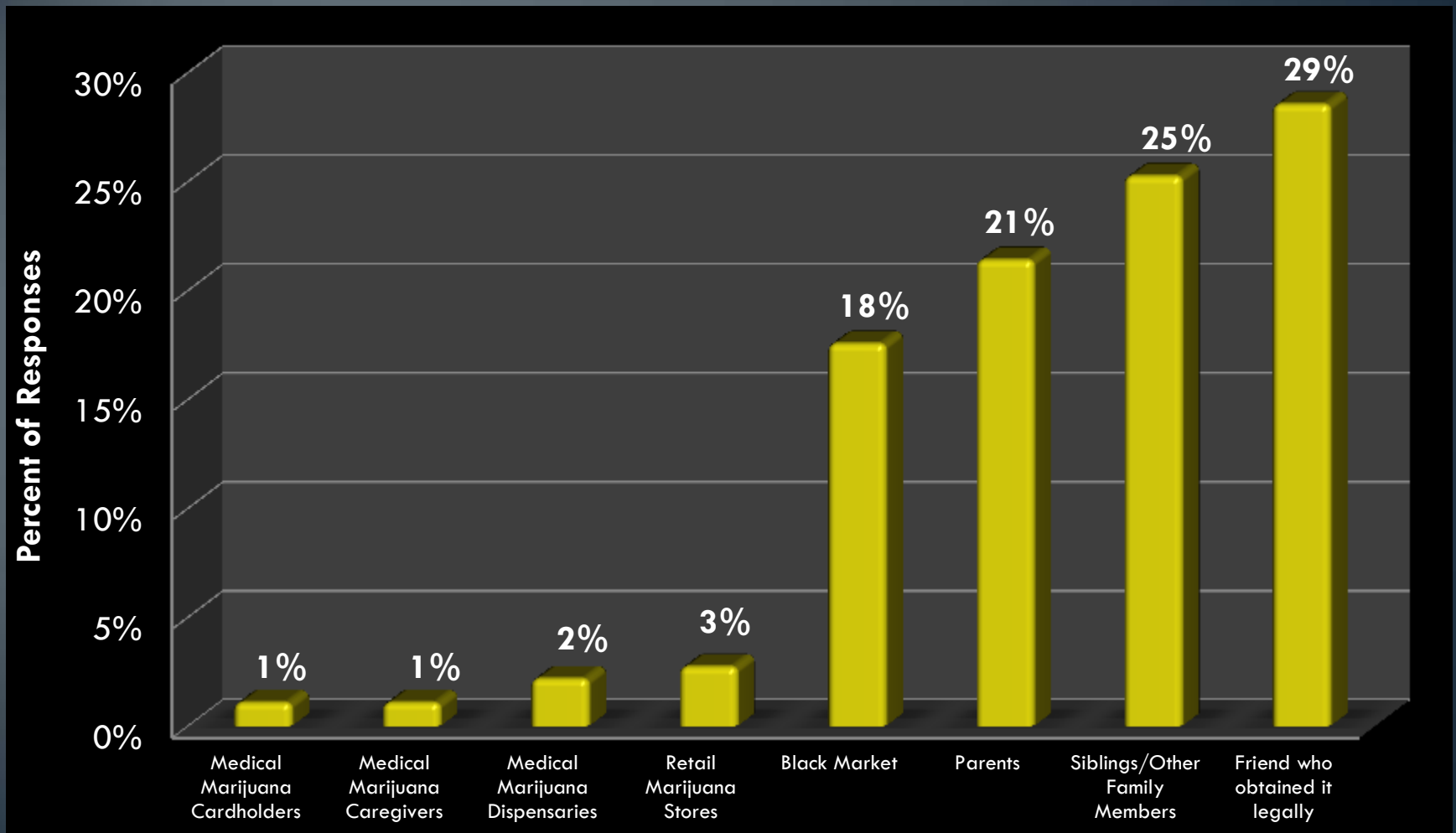
Marijuana Use in Youth

Colorado Average Past Month Use of Marijuana Ages 12 to 17 Years-Old



SOURCE: National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2013 and 2014

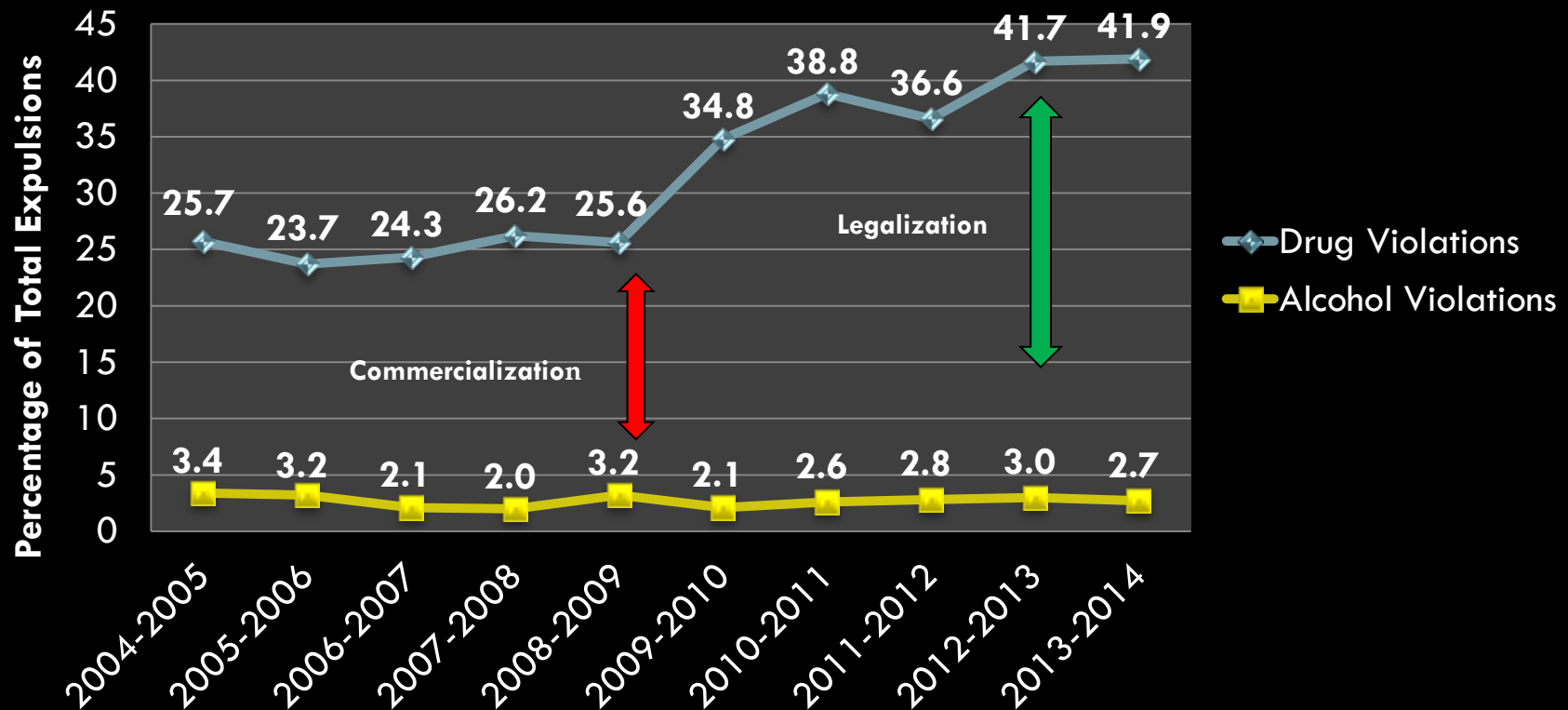
Student Marijuana Sources



SOURCE: Colorado School Counselor Association (CSCA) and Rocky Mountain HIDTA, 2015

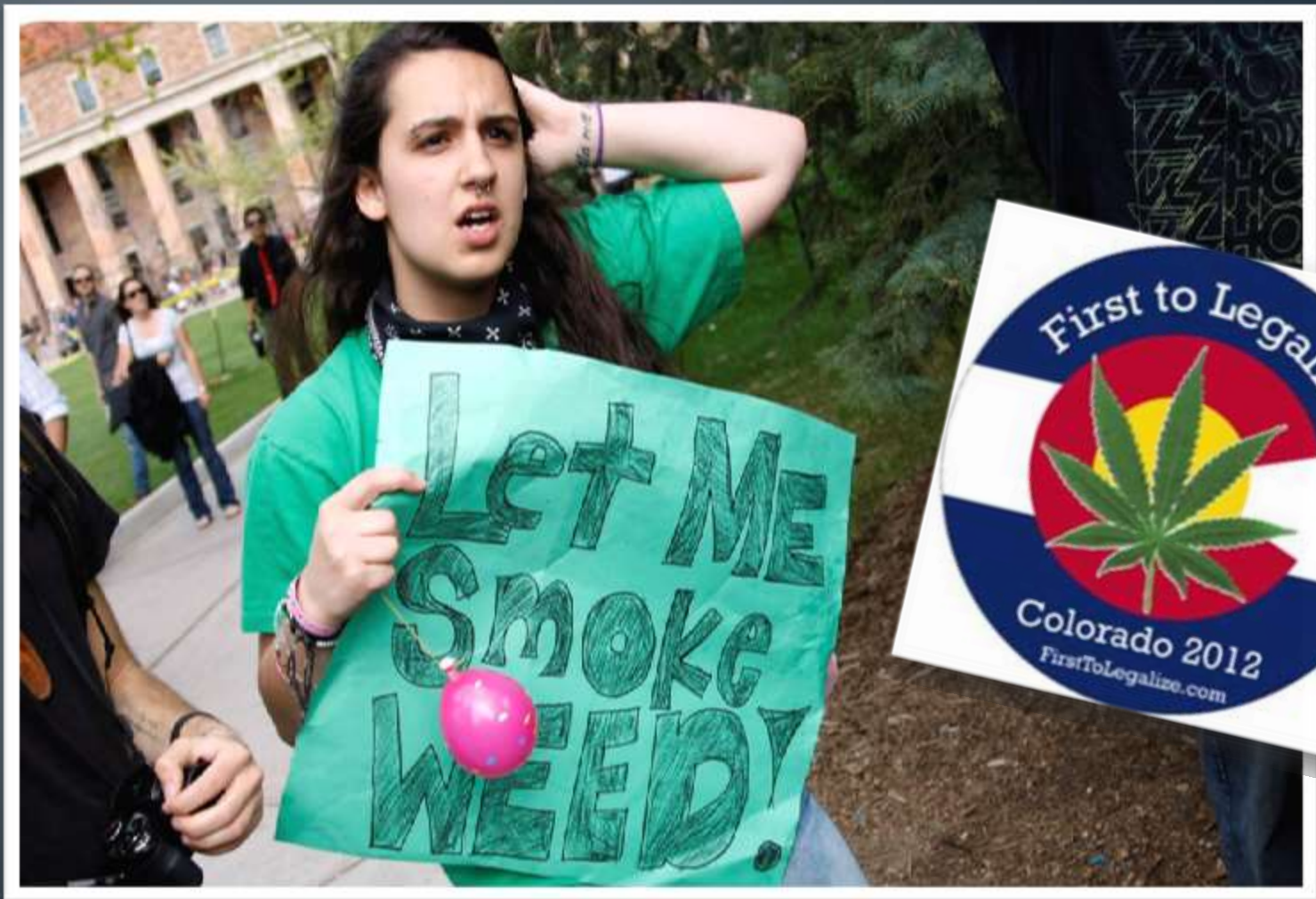
High School Discipline

Percentage of Total Expulsions in Colorado from 2004 - 2014 School Years



SOURCE: Colorado Department of Education, 10-Year Trend Data: State Suspension and Expulsion Incident Rates and Reasons

College-Age Marijuana Use



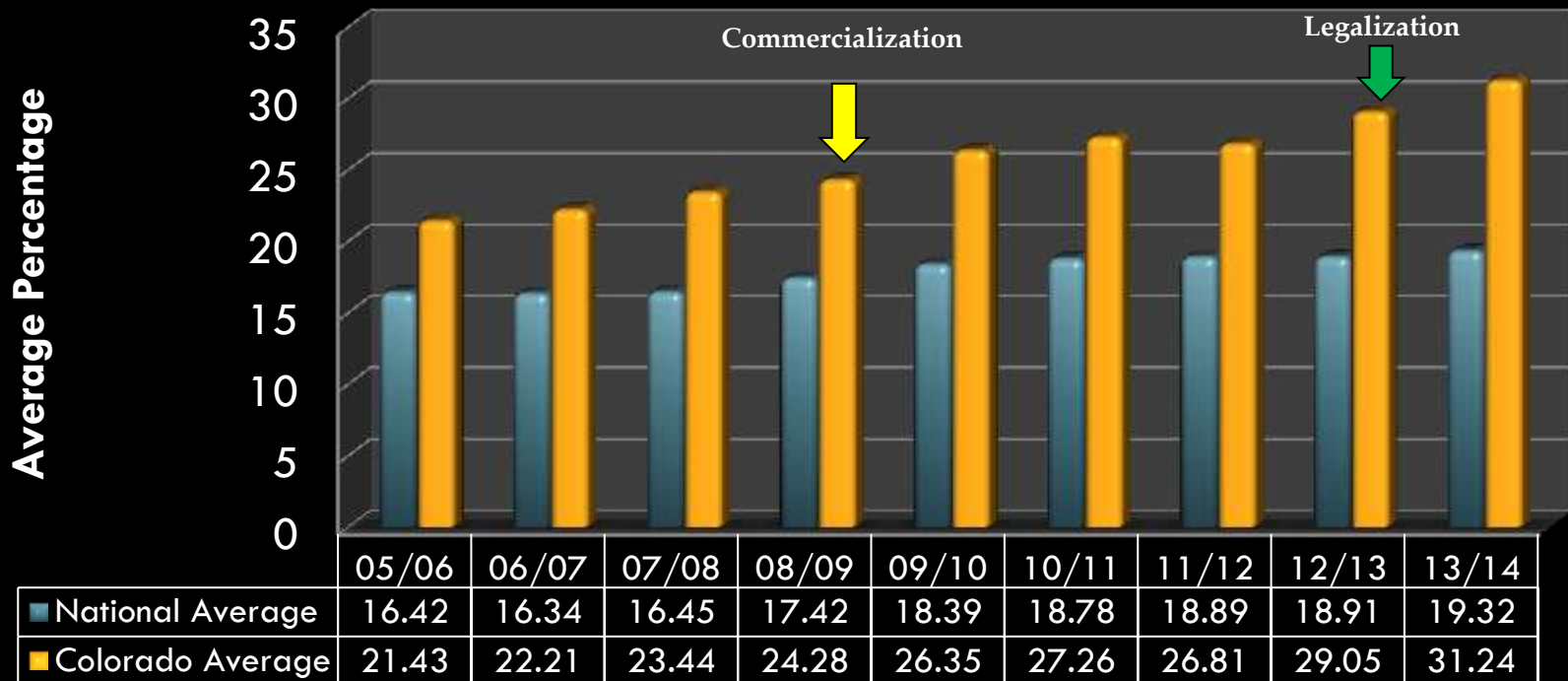
College-Age Marijuana Use

College-Age Adults (ages 18 to 25 years) Current Marijuana Use 2013/2014

- Colorado ranked 1st in the nation for current marijuana use among college-age adults
 - ✓ Ranked 2nd in 2012/2013
 - ✓ Ranked 8th in 2006/2007
- Colorado college-age use is 62 percent higher than the national average
- 2013/2014 college-age use increased 17 percent compared to pre-legalization years 2011/2012. Nationally a 2 percent increase.

College-Age Marijuana Use

College Age (18 to 25 Years Old) Past Month Marijuana Use

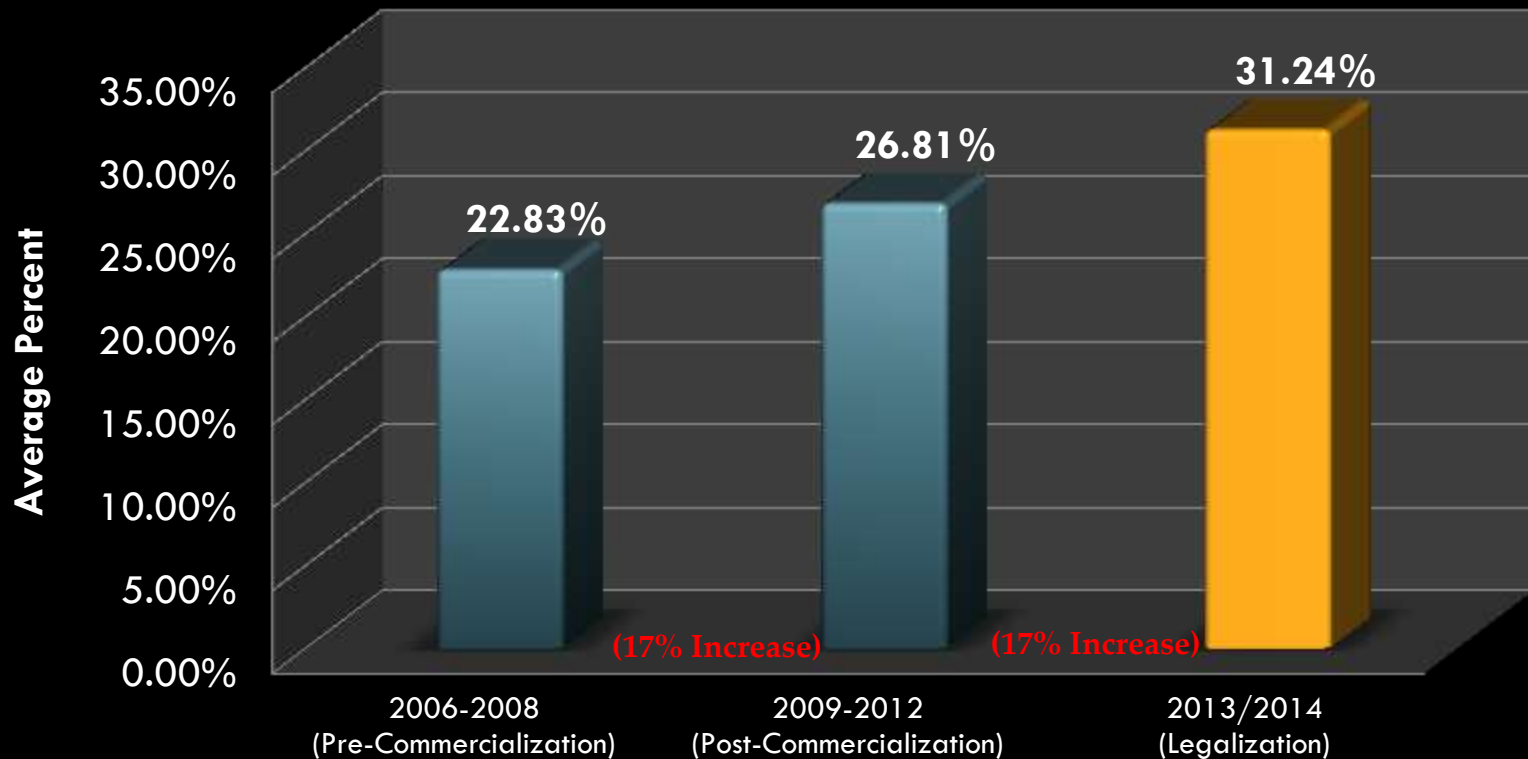


Annual Averages of Data Collection

SOURCE: SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2013 and 2014

College-Age Marijuana Use

**Average Past Month Use of Marijuana
College Age (18 to 25 Years-Old)**



SOURCE: National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2006 - 2014

Adult Marijuana Use



Adult Marijuana Use

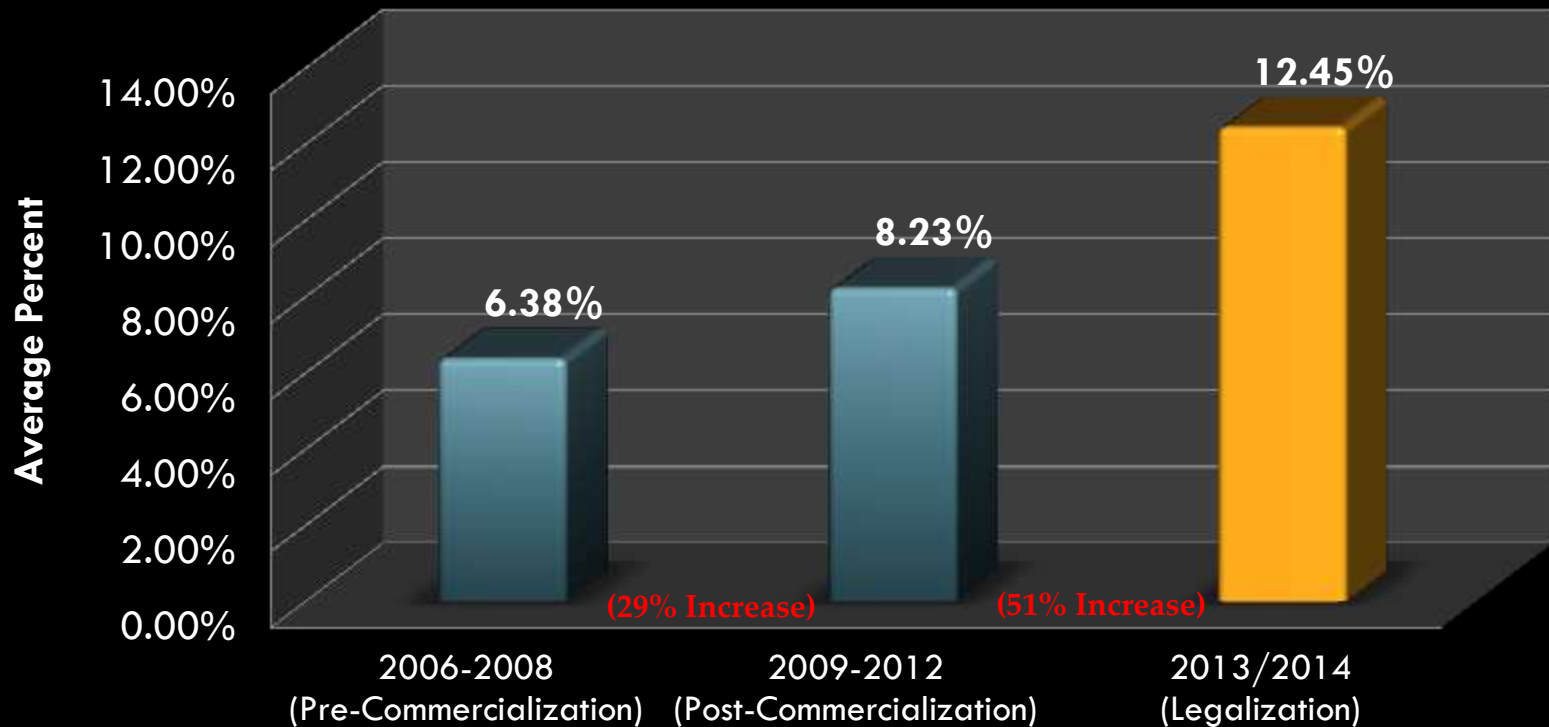
Adults (ages 26+ years)

Current Marijuana Use 2013/2014

- Colorado ranked 1st in the nation for current marijuana use among adults
 - ✓ Ranked 5th in 2012/2013
 - ✓ Ranked 8th in 2006/2007
- Colorado adult use is 104 percent higher than the national average
- 2013/2014 adult use increased 17 percent compared to pre-legalization years 2011/2012. Nationally an increase of 21 percent.

Adult Marijuana Use

**Average Past Month Use of Marijuana
Adults (26+ Years-Old)**

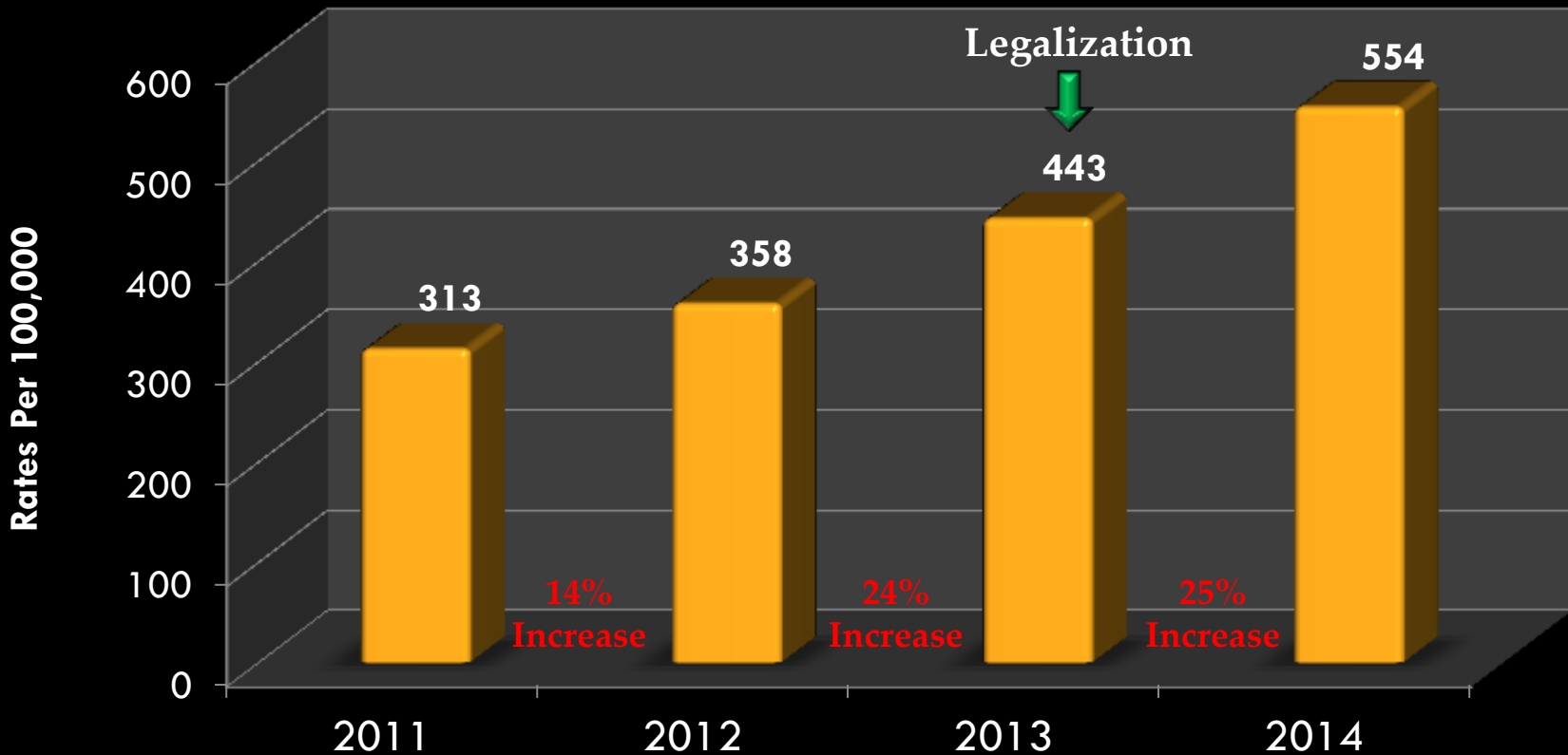


SOURCE: National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2006-2014

Emergency Room Visits, Hospitalizations and Marijuana



Colorado Emergency Department Rates Likely Related to Marijuana



SOURCE: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

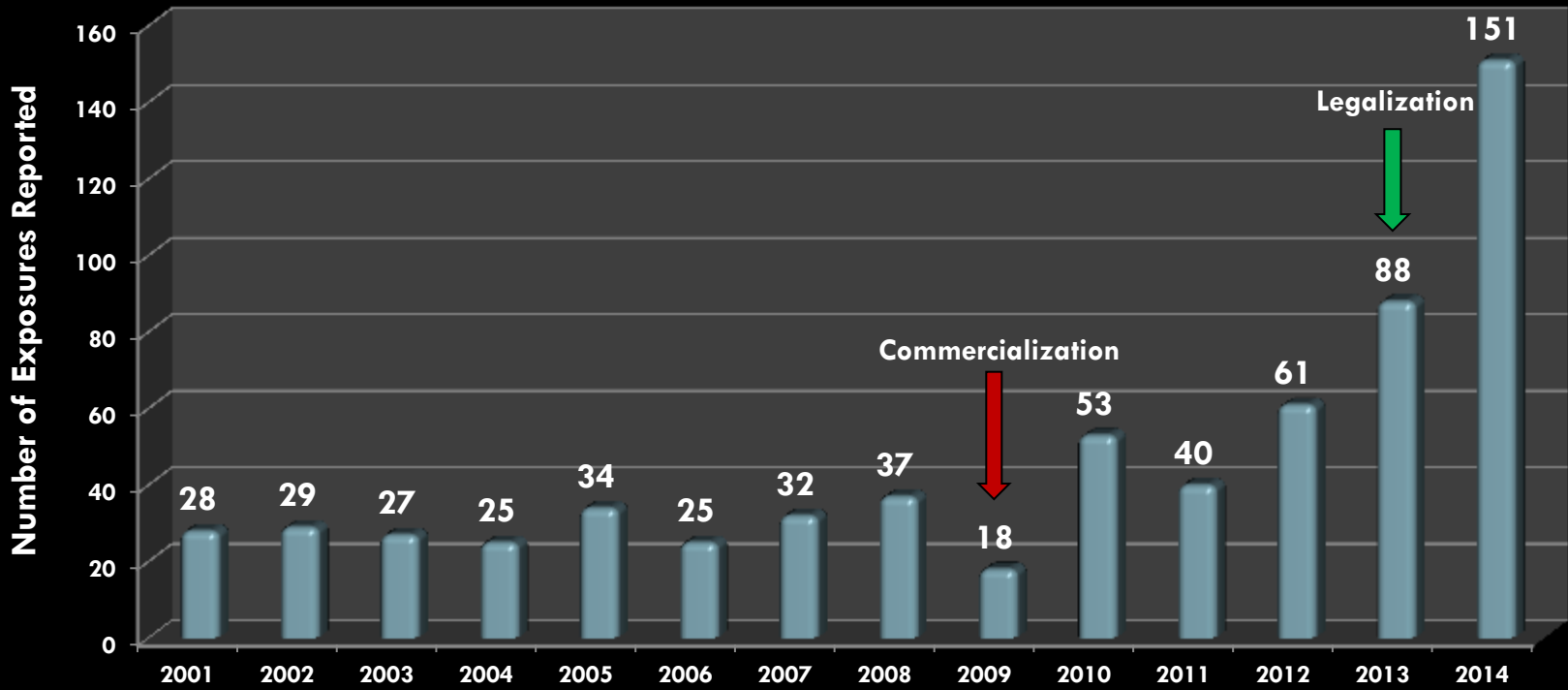
Colorado Hospitalization Rates Likely Related to Marijuana



SOURCE: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Rocky Mountain Poison Center

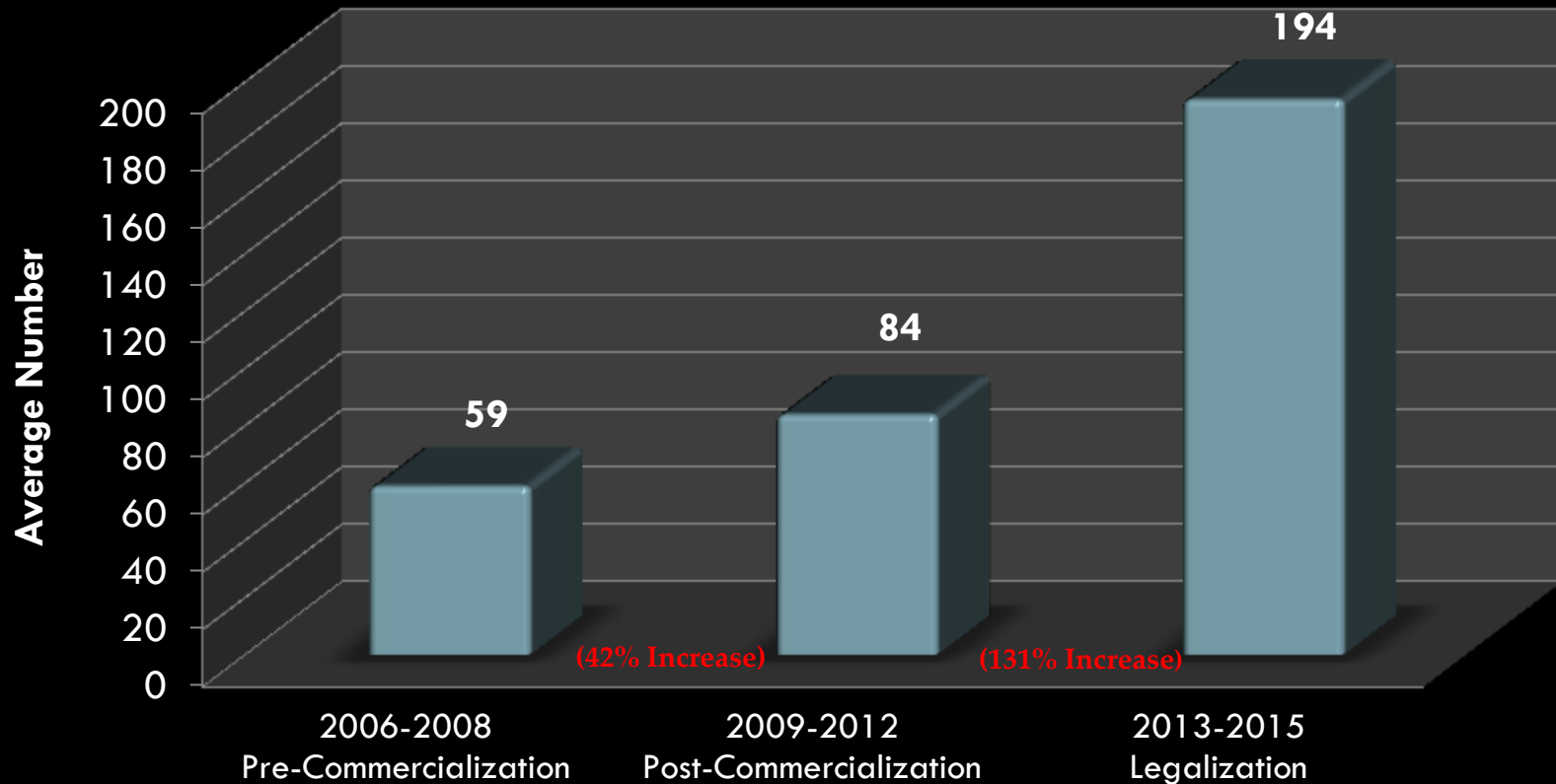
RMPDC Marijuana Exposure Calls Through December 31, 2014



SOURCE: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment/RMPDC

Rocky Mountain Poison Center

All Ages, Average Number of Marijuana-Related Exposures



SOURCE: Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center

Marijuana Diversion

THE DENVER POST

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2013

CHANCE OF RAIN ▲95° ▼63° 18A • © THE DENVER POST • \$1.50 PRICE MAY VARY OUTSIDE METRO DENVER

★★

DP ONLINE: Complete Denver Broncos coverage ahead of Thursday night's season opener. »denverpost.com

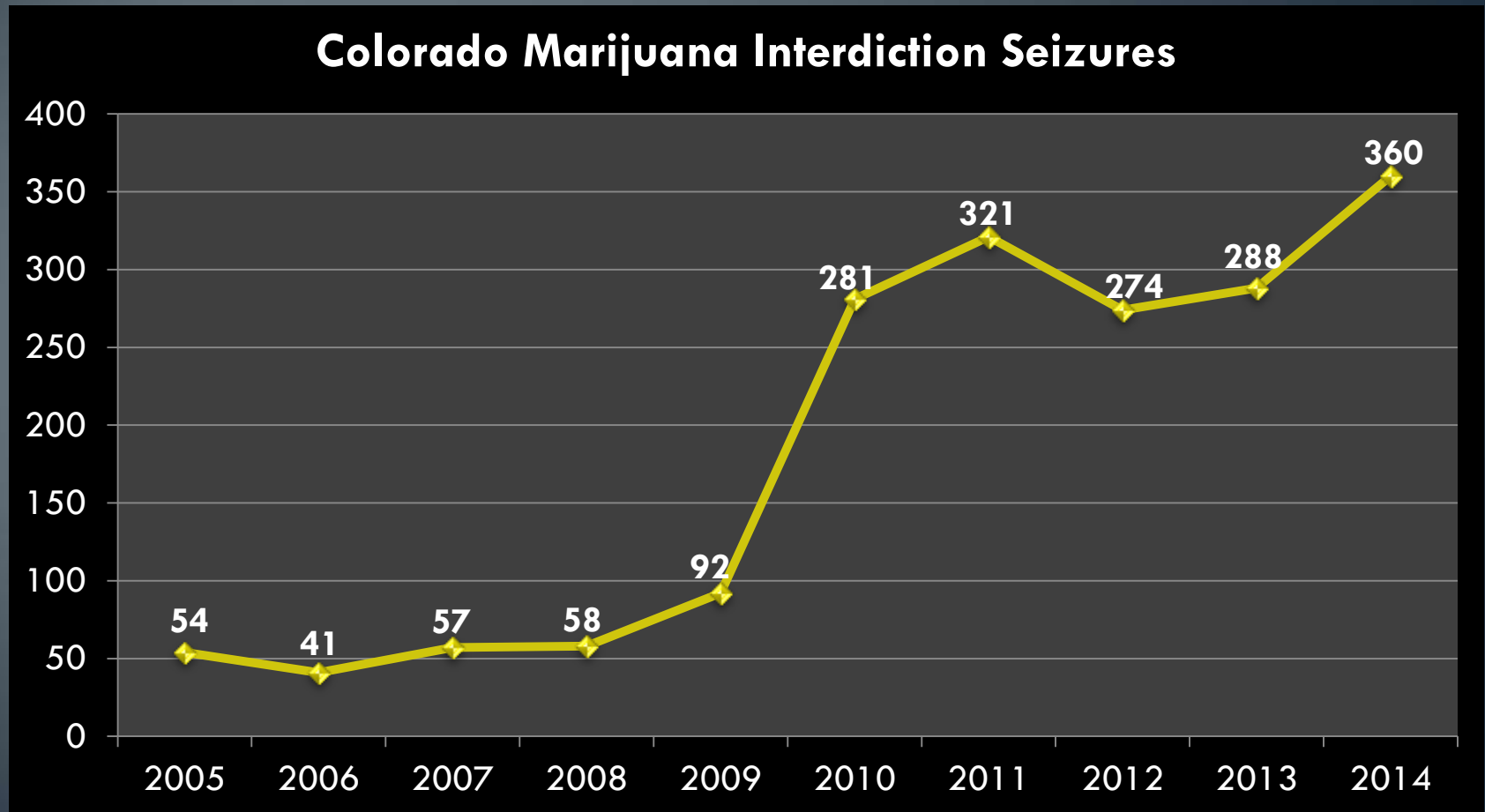
Black-Market Marijuana

Pot spilling out of state

States to Which Marijuana Was Destined (2014)



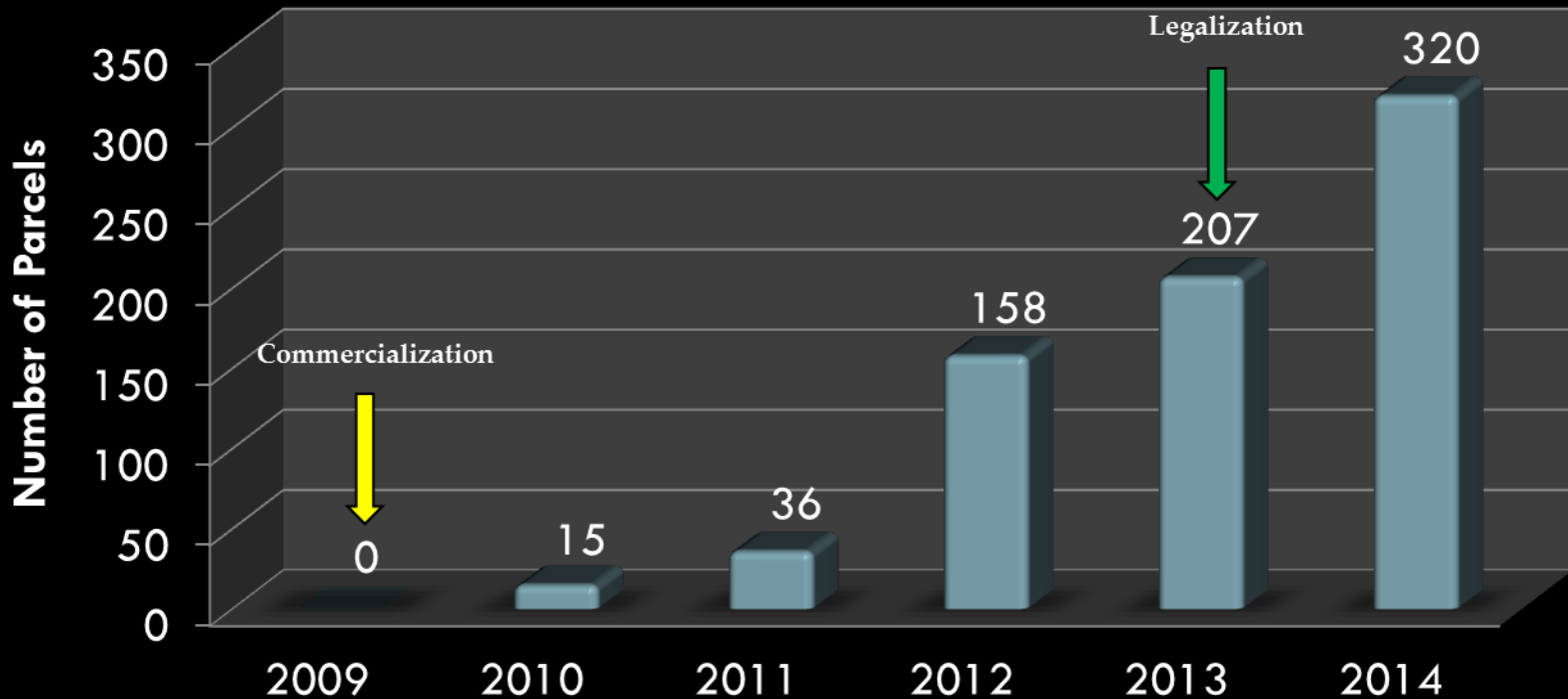
Diversion – By Motor Vehicles



SOURCE: El Paso Intelligence Center, National Seizure System

Diversion – By U.S. Postal Service Packages

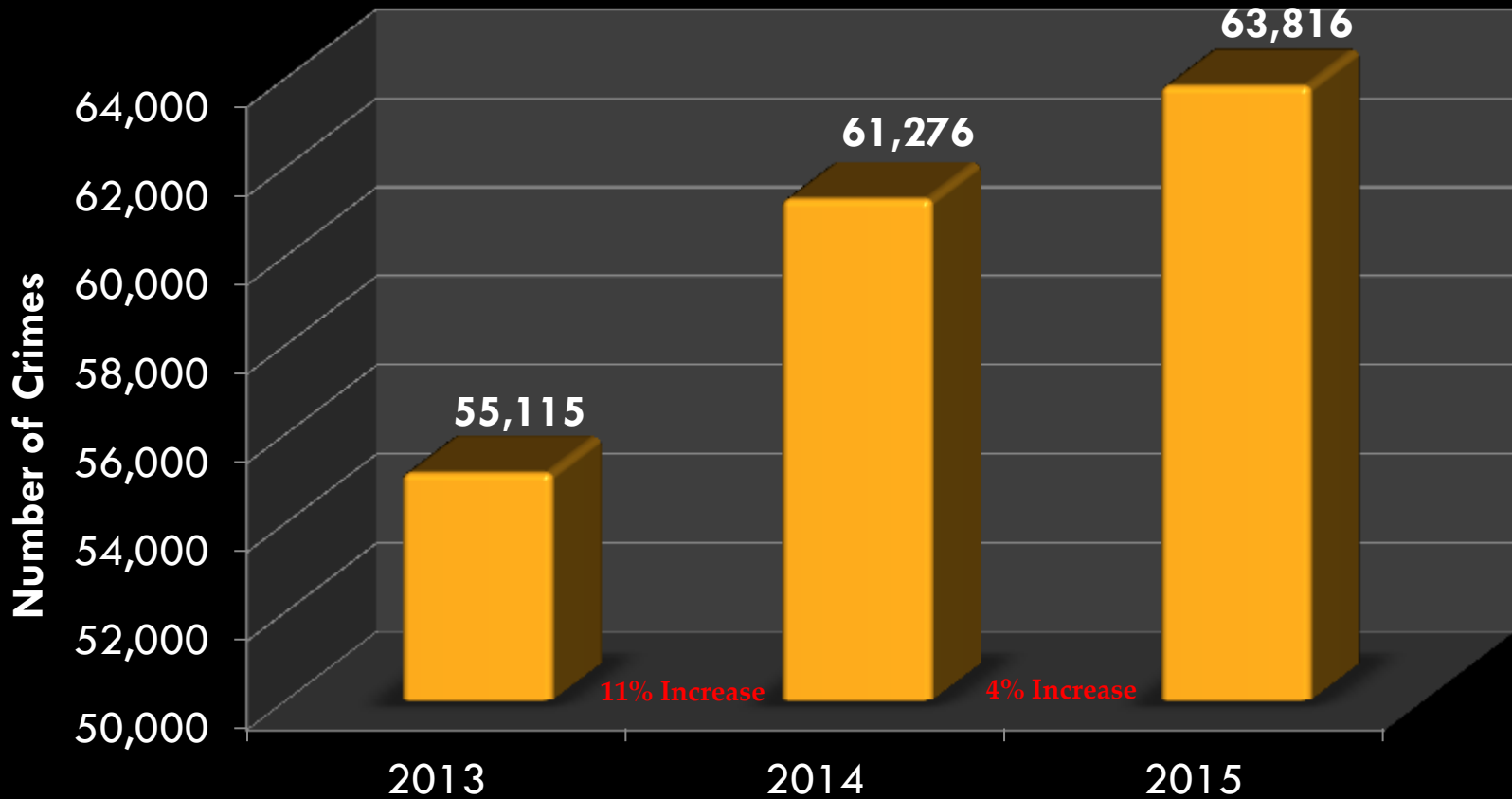
Parcels Containing Marijuana Mailed from Colorado to Another State



SOURCE: United States Postal Inspection Service – Prohibited Mailing of Narcotics

Crime in Denver

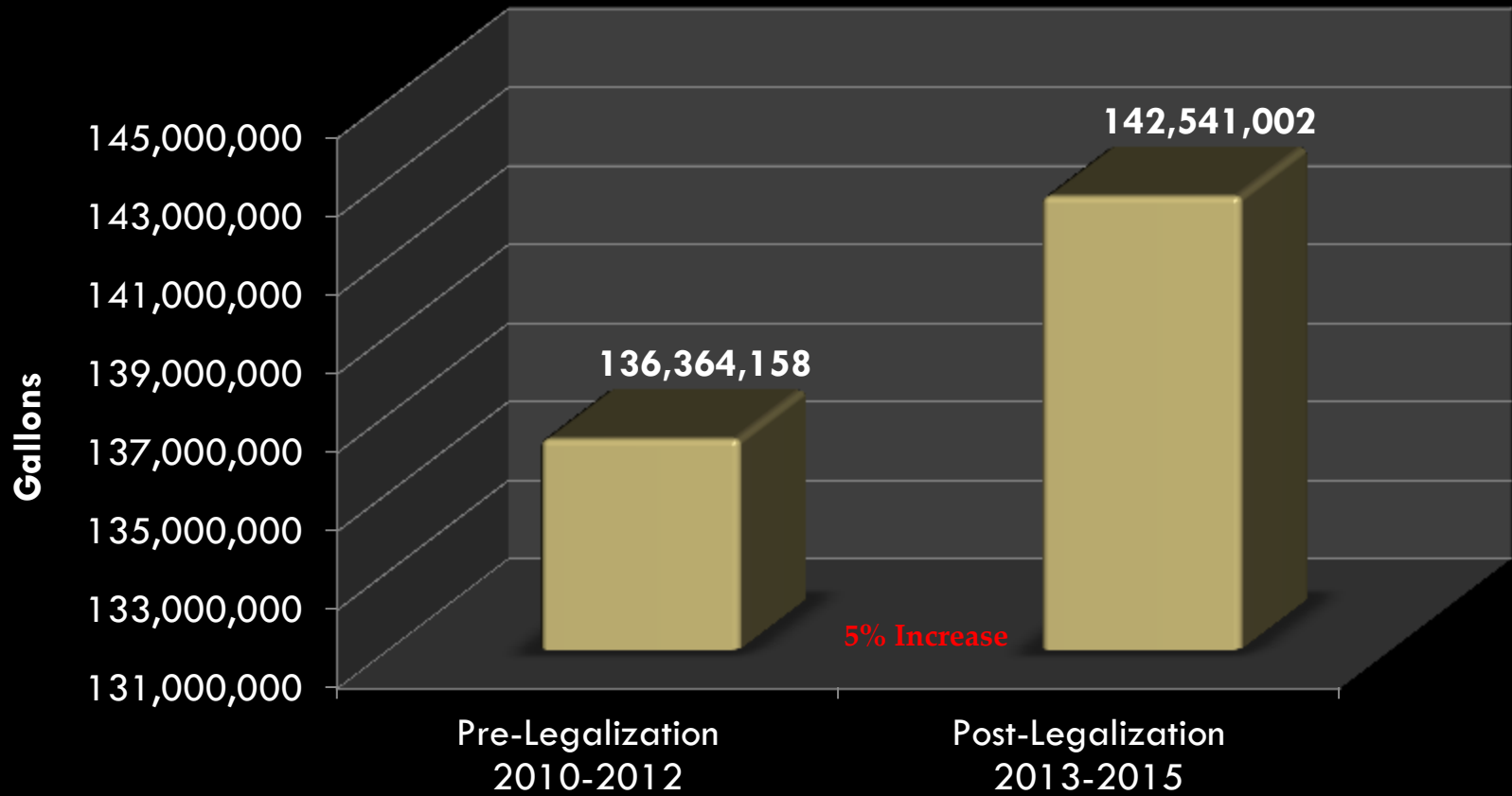
All Reported Crimes in Denver



SOURCE: City and County of Denver, March 2016

Alcohol Consumption

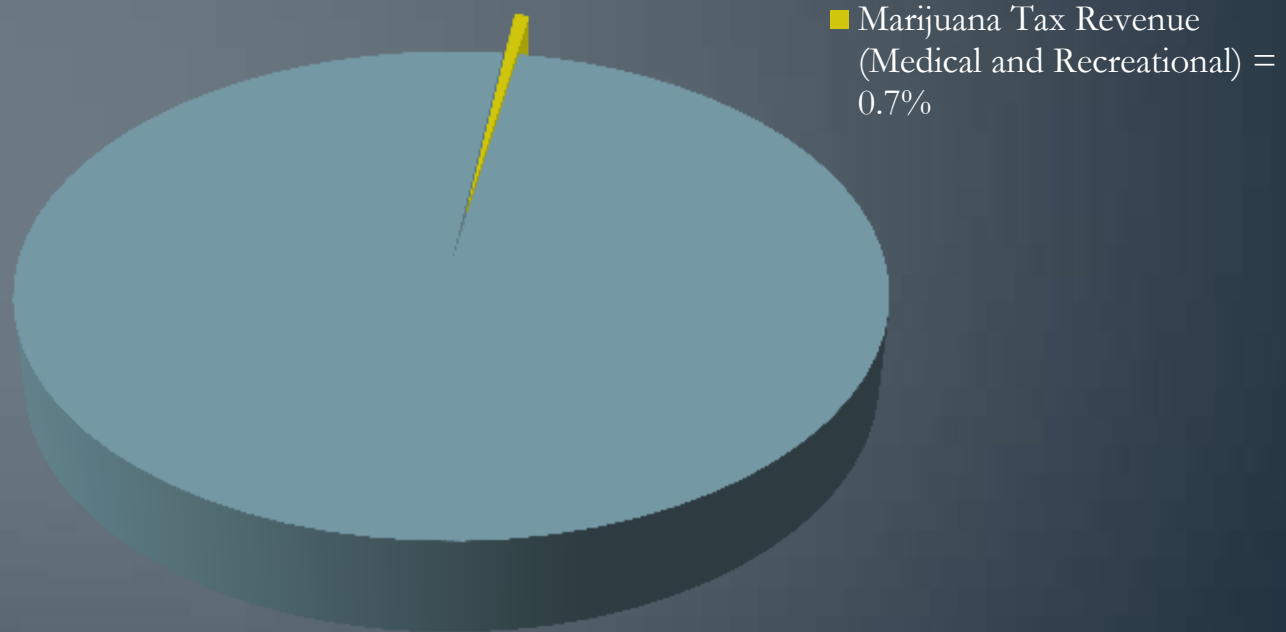
Colorado Average Consumption of Alcohol



SOURCE: Colorado Department of Revenue, Colorado Liquor Excise Tax

Colorado General Fund

Colorado's Total General Fund Revenue, FY 2015*



* Preliminary Numbers based on June 2015 Forecast

A Snapshot in Colorado

| | 2014 |
|--|------|
| Marijuana-Related DUIs | ↑ |
| Marijuana-Related Traffic Deaths | ↑ |
| Youth Marijuana Use | ↑ |
| College Marijuana Use | ↑ |
| Adult Marijuana Use | ↑ |
| Marijuana-Related Emergency Room Admissions | ↑ |
| Marijuana-Related Hospitalizations | ↑ |
| Marijuana-Related Exposures | ↑ |
| Marijuana-Related Treatment | ↓ |
| Marijuana Diversion | ↑ |
| THC Extraction Labs | ↓ |

SOURCE: Rocky Mountain HIDTA

Local Response to Medical and Recreational Marijuana in Colorado

Of 321 total local jurisdictions:

- ✓ 228 (71 percent) prohibit any medical or recreational marijuana businesses
- ✓ 67 (21 percent) allow any medical and recreational marijuana businesses
- ✓ 26 (8 percent) allow either medical or recreational marijuana businesses, not both

Why We Do This

- Important to Remember with Statistics...



Thank you for what you do.

Remember:

**“Do the Right
Thing”**